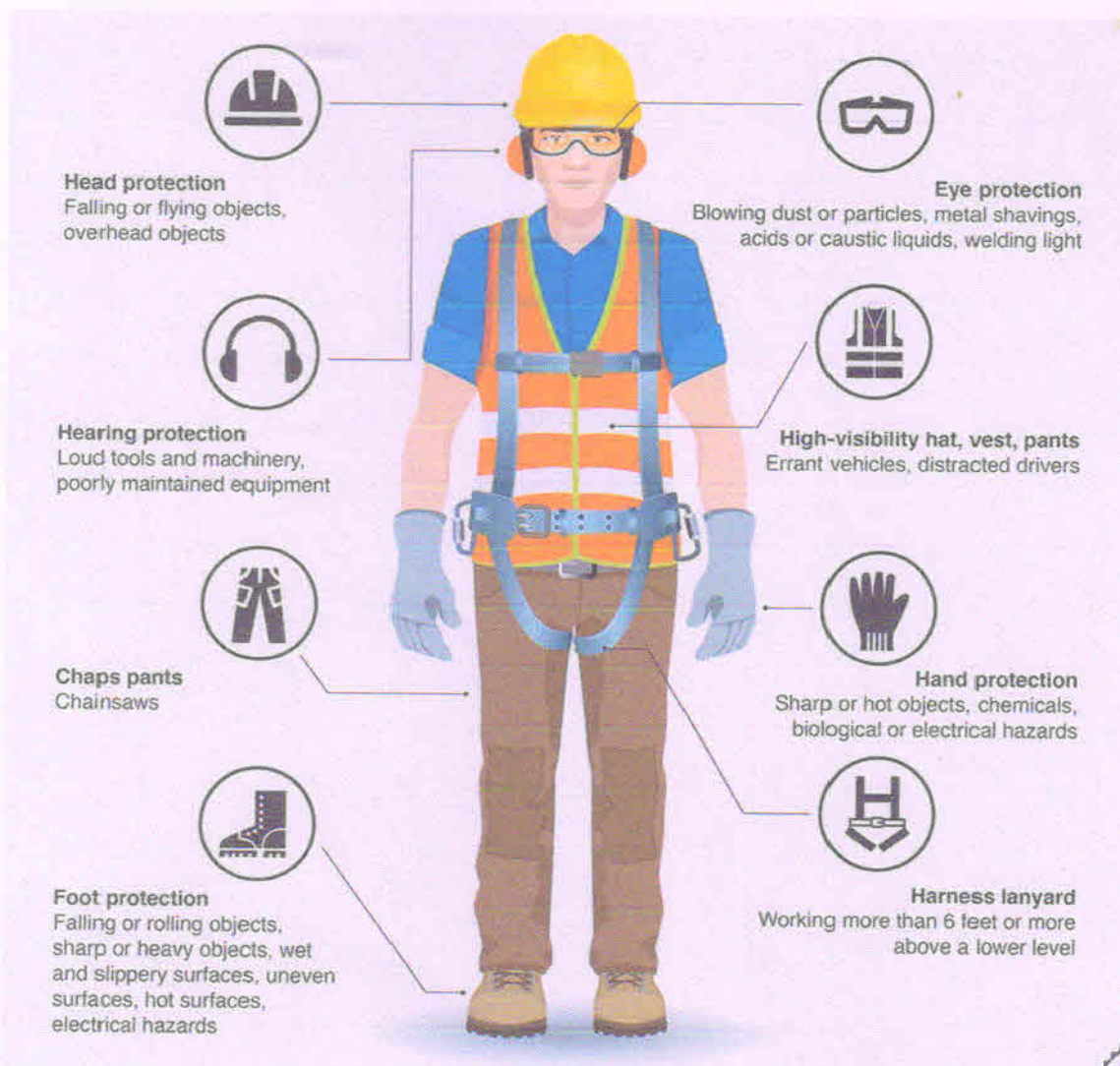# Personal Protective Equipment

What is PPE?

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, protects workers from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from physical, electrical, mechanical, chemical, or other workplace hazards. Examples of PPE include hard hats, face shields, goggles, gloves, vests, respirators, safety shoes, and coveralls.

PPE is required for many transportation maintenance activities. Both employers and employees have responsibilities for maintaining a safe work environment.

Head protection
Falling or flying objects, overhead objects

Eye protection
Blowing dust or particles, metal shavings, acids or caustic liquids, welding light

Hearing protection
Loud tools and machinery, poorly maintained equipment

High-visibility hat, vest, pants
Errant vehicles, distracted drivers

Chaps pants
Chainsaws

Hand protection
Sharp or hot objects, chemicals, biological or electrical hazards

Foot protection
Falling or rolling objects, sharp or heavy objects, wet and slippery surfaces, uneven surfaces, hot surfaces, electrical hazards

Harness lanyard
Working more than 6 feet or more above a lower level

- Head protection
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- High-visibility hat, vests, pants
- Chaps pants
- Hand protection
- Foot protection
- Harness lanyard

Employers: What You Must Do

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) require that employers protect their employees from workplace hazards that can cause injury. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry administers and enforces workplace safety and health rules in the state. Employers must ensure that employees have PPE equipment in accordance with federal OSHA **and** Minnesota state standards.

Employees: What You Should Do

Use PPE for the hazards of your job and set an example for your agency:

- Always use PPE when required.
- Attend PPE training.
- Tell your supervisor about worn or damaged PPE.
- Encourage others to use PPE.